

DDCI-76-753

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13 JUL 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director for Operations

FROM:

Chief, Latin America Division

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SUBJECT: Possible Leak of Intelligence Information
on the Movement of Cuban Troops in Africa

1. The Latin America Division has been examining the possible leak of intelligence information on the movement of Cuban troops in Africa which appeared in an Associated Press (AP) wire story on 2 July 1976. As of 13 July 1976 there is no additional information on this possible leak.

2. The wire story, written by Fred Hoffman, Pentagon correspondent for the AP, quoted U.S. intelligence sources as saying they have received reports that Cuban leaders may be preparing to send several thousand troops from Angola to the Congo Republic.

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5. Whereas it is not proposed any further action be taken pursuant to the above information at this time, we are forwarding a copy of this memorandum to both the Office of Security and DDO Counterintelligence Staff for their information.

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3 Attachments, as stated

cc: DDCI

CONCUR:

Theodore G. Shackley
for

Deputy Director for Operations

13 JUL 1976

Date

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CUBA-AFRICA

BY FRED S. HOFFMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) -- U.S. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES SAY THEY HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT CUBAN LEADERS MAY BE PREPARING TO SEND SEVERAL THOUSAND TROOPS FROM ANGOLA TO THE CONGO REPUBLIC.

RAUL CASTRO, BROTHER OF CUBAN PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO, TRAVELED TO BRAZZAVILLE, THE CONGO REPUBLIC'S CAPITOL LAST MONTH, TO DISCUSS REDEPLOYMENT OF SOME OF CUBA'S 15,000 TROOPS FROM NEARBY ANGOLA, SOURCES SAID.

HE AGREED TO THE TRANSFER OF ABOUT 3,000 CUBAN SOLDIERS TO TRAIN CONGOLESE TROOPS, ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING U.S. INTELLIGENCE. THE REPORTS GAVE NO INDICATION IF THERE ARE OTHER REASONS THE CONGO GOVERNMENT WANTS CUBAN TROOPS IN THE COUNTRY.

THE CONGO REPUBLIC SERVED FOR A TIME AS A STAGING POINT FOR CUBAN AND SOVIET MILITARY AID TO PRO-MARXIST FORCES IN ANGOLA WHICH LATER DEFEATED U.S. BACKED ELEMENTS.

WITH TROOPS IN THE CONGO, CUBA CONCEIVABLY COULD BRING POLITICAL PRESSURE AGAINST ZAIRE, WHICH IS FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES AND PROVIDED SUPPORT TO ANTI-MARXIST FORCES IN THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR. A NARROW STRIP OF ZAIRE TERRITORY LEADING TO THE ATLANTIC IS SANDWICHED BETWEEN ANGOLA AND THE CONGO REPUBLIC.

RAUL CASTRO ALSO VISITED LUANDA, THE ANGOLAN CAPITOL, IN EARLY JUNE TO EXPLAIN FIDEL CASTRO'S DECISION TO REDUCE THE CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN ANGOLA, U.S. INTELLIGENCE SOURCES SAID.

THIS VISIT REPORTEDLY CAME WITHIN ABOUT 10 DAYS AFTER DISCLOSURE THAT FIDEL CASTRO HAD WRITTEN SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER OLOF PALME SAYING THAT CUBA WOULD WITHDRAW ABOUT 200 SOLDIERS A WEEK FROM ANGOLA.

SINCE THEN, THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF NEWS DISPATCHES FROM HAVANA SAYING THAT CUBAN TROOPS HAVE BEEN SEEN RETURNING FROM AFRICA. HOWEVER, U.S. OFFICIALS SAY THE U.S. STILL DOES NOT HAVE CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF CUBAN SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM ANGOLA.

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the CIA Operations Center and of the appropriate analytical component in the Agency.

THE OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE THERE HAVE BEEN AIR FLIGHTS AND SHIP
MOVEMENTS BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN ANGOLA AND CUBA, BUT SAY IT IS
POSSIBLE THE CUBANS COULD BE REPLACING COMBAT-TESTED SOLDIERS IN
ANGOLA WITH FRESH TROOPS FROM CUBA.

AFTER PRO-MARXIST FORCES WON IN ANGOLA WITH MAJOR HELP FROM CUBAN
UNITS, IT WAS WIDELY EXPECTED THAT THE CUBANS MIGHT TRANSFER SOME
THOSE TROOPS TO MOZAMBIQUE TO HELP RHODESIAN BLACK NATIONALIST
GUERRILLAS AGAINST THE WHITE-RULED REGIME IN RHODESIA.

HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF ANY SIZEABLE NUMBERS OF
SHOWING UP IN MOZAMBIQUE.

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